GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:318
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
LEPROSY VACCINE
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Immunology has developed leprosy vaccine indigenously;

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) whether the Government are still importing leprosy vaccine;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the indigenously developed vaccines has not yet been recommended by ICMR or WHO for use; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 318 FOR 11.12.2002

Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Immunology has developed Mw anti-leprosy vaccine indigenously.The cost of the leprosy vaccine developed by the National Institute of Immunology is Rs.400/- per patient in the recommended 8 injectible doses.

The Government has not imported Leprosy Vaccine for use in the country at any time. Indian Council of Medical Research and WHO have not yet finally recommended the general use of the Leprosy Vaccine developed by the National Institute of Immunology. In a comparative trial undertaken by ICMR in South India, the Mw Vaccine developed by National Institute of Immunology was found to provide only 24.5.% protection against leprosy. An expert group set up by ICMR recommended that Mw Vaccine can be cleared for marketing as an immuno-therapeutic adjunct to chemotherapy with MDT for a limited period of two years and the decision can be reviewed at the end of this period based on the additional information generated during these two years. The vaccine could be used by treating physician according to his/her preference. Accordingly, the Drugs Controller General of India had cleared Mw Vaccine for marketing as a immuno-therapeutic adjunct to chemotherapy with MDT for a limited period of two years and six months. No final recommendation in this matter has been received from ICMR.Moreover, the presently used oral chemotherapy (MDT) effectively provides leprosy cure.